

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers*
and *Petty-Statefmen*, of all Sides.

Tuesday, May 9. 1704.

IF the Devil had been an *Englishman*, a Poor Author would certainly have been Reflected on, for saying any thing amiss of him; if a *Frenchman*, he must have said nothing well of him; one would have been call'd bewraying his own Nest, the other, applauding our Enemies.

Those Gentlemen who give themselves leave to Reproach these Papers with Jacobitism and Bribery, how much asham'd of themselves will they be, when the Book is whole, and all Parts may be viewed together? 'Twill Certainly Reflect both upon their Judgment, their Temper and their Honesty.

Upon their Judgments, that they could not see a Design so plainly laid down as this is, and so often repeated.

Upon their Temper, that they could not have Patience to let one Part of the Story follow another, but pass their Censure upon the Design, when they had seen but part of it.

Upon their Honesty, that they should not be able to bear the Truth, because it was said of their Enemies.

If these Gentlemen will tell us, this Book is writ for a *French* Party, the very Book it self shall live to be an Answer to them; and in the mean time they must allow me to say, They discover very little Judgment who decide it before-hand.

No Argument can persuade me that a Great Action is one jot the less so, for being brought to pass by a Person we don't like; and the Justice of the King of *France* against Duelling, is no less Justice in the General Judgment of the World, for being his, nor can it pass so with me.

We are told, that the Civil War under *Henry IV.* was the first beginning of this Bloody Custom, and some People charge the King himself with being very much the occasion of it, Encouraging and Promoting the Broils among the Gentry and Nobility, who by that means came to make their Court to him with the more Care, and cleared his hands of many an Enemy.

'Twou'd be needless to give the History here of the Contention of Families in those Times, about the Government of Provinces, the Titles of Honour, and the Favours and Offices of the Court, which they rather pretended to and demanded, than beg'd of the King: That Great Prince oftentimes found himself more Embroiled with the Factions and Feuds of his Great Men; than with all his Potent Enemies; for it was the Constant Practice of the Nobility, when two Pretenders put in for the same thing, he who was refus'd, would Retreat with all his Attendants from the
T Army,

Army, and sometimes go over to the Enemy.

However it was, this is sure, that he did not Punish the Civil Feuds of his Great Men, neither during the War, nor afterward in Times of Peace. But something may be said further, to the Original of this Fatal Mischief; and if I may be permitted to give my Opinion, it may be trac'd back to the Reign of the Sons of Henry II. of whom I may say, that they gave Encouragement to Private Murther, by Private Example.

But I am oblig'd to make a Digression in the middle of this Story, by a very Important Question a Person of Quality started to me, upon the Subject of the present French Grandeur; to this purpose:

You have been telling us long of the French Greatness; if they are so Powerful, why have they not forc'd their way into Bavaria, as they threaten'd, and all the World expected?

I confess this is a new Case, and as they have met with some more than usual Difficulties, there seems to be some Prospect of Hopes they will still encrease, and they may be effectually disappointed in all their great Designs that Way.

No Man will more rejoice than I, at a Check to the Greatness of the French Power; and the letting the World know what that Power is, and how great, does no where imply otherwise; but with Submission, all this, suppose it should happen out so fortunately for the Confederates, does not make the French Power less, but the Imperialists greater.

'Tis certain the Accounts I have given of the French Power on the Rhine, are rather less than what they appear to be, than greater. They have Three Armies now on the Frontiers ready for the Attempt; they have march'd and countermarch'd, made mock Movements and Encampments to amuse the Enemy, in Order to draw their Forces this or that Way, that they may have Opportunity to pass to Advantage.

And tho' we have no exact Account of the German Forces, this is sufficient to me to prove they are in a very good Condition, in that Marshal de Tallard has not yet thought fit to make the Attempt, for the

French are too wise to make the Offer, if they see it impracticable.

There are but three Ways the French can pass into Bavaria; from Hunningen by the Forreſt Towns, and the Pass of Red-House, from Offenburgh, by the Kinsigerdale, or by the plain Country thro' the Palatinate.

He cannot attempt the first, without fighting with General Thungen, and alarming the Swiſs, with whom the French do not care to be embroil'd.

The Second is the Place they pass'd at last Year, and we are told the Duke of Wirtemberg and the Elector Palatine have drawn Lines and Retrenchments in every Place, furnish'd them with Cannon, and posted so many Troops in them, that it will be warm Work whenever it is attempted.

The Third Way is thro' the Plains of the Palatinate, and this has Two Difficulties; either they must break through the Lines at Stolboffen, where Prince Lewis with the main of the German Army is posted; or pass the Rhine in the Face of the Germans, and take Philipsburgh.

These Difficulties are not small, and I am of the Opinion, that had not the Hazard of the Attempt seem'd greater than we imagin'd, the Marshal de Tallard would not have been a Month at Strasburgh, and not have begun it.

If the Imperialists have so carefully ordered their Matters contrary to their usual Custom, as to make this Attempt Impracticable, the French Affairs may receive a Check on that side; For it would be Victory enough over the French, if the Germans standing every where on the Defensive, can but prevent their Conjunction with the Bavarians: and without doubt, the longer they defer the Execution of it, the greater the hazard will be; the hearty assistance of the King of Prussia is a black Article against the French in this Case; for if his Prussian Majesty joyns the Imperialists with 25000 Men, as we are told he will, and 6 or 8000 of them are already in the Lines at Stolboffen; the Germans may be in such a posture, that in their Turn they may Insult the French on the Rhine.

On the other hand ; If *Monf. the Mar-
shall de Tallard* does not Effect his De-
sign of Joyning the *Bavarians* ; in a short
Time, the Army now forming by the
Duke of Marlborough on the *Moselle*, may
divert him ; I cannot but believe this to be
the most likely of any of our Modern Mea-
sures, which generally speaking have been
none of the best, and a great many Events
may be guess'd at from it, which is not the
business of this Paper, at least not yet.

I never deny'd, but that the Confede-
rates might be easily capable of checking the
French Power, if their Unanimity of Council,
and General Conduct came up to the *French* ;
which till it does, I shall never expect.

'Tis certain the *Imperial* Affairs are in
the utmost Danger, and One blow on any
side may be very Fatal to the whole Em-
pire ; and therefore I do not wonder to
see the King of *Prussia* begin to open his

Ears, which were always till now Deaf
to the *House of Austria*.

But I cannot Close this, without one
Remark on the present posture of the
Emperor's Affairs : The Grievances of the
Protestants having never been redress'd,
has made the Protestant Powers always
backward to assist the *Emperor* ; and yet
'Tis now plain, That the whole *Empire*
would be lost, without the assistance of
the Protestant Interest ; from whence the
Imperial Gratitude is plain on one hand,
and the Generous Temper of the Pro-
testants deserve a Due Remark on the
other ; who, rather than the Enemy shall
overrun the *Empire*, Defend it at their
own Charge, tho' at the same time they
are oppress'd and Injur'd by that very
Power, which stands in need of their Pro-
tection.

ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

THE Society was forc'd to Post-ponc
their own Vindication in Matters of
Charge, to furnish Mankind with some lit-
tle Diversions they met with since our last.

Particularly a loud Complaint came be-
fore them from some Members of the Soci-
ety for Reformation, against a Sermon late-
ly Printed, call'd *Plain English* : The Com-
plainants told a long Story of a Parson they
had desired to Preach before them, who
they expected would have Preach'd a good
healing Discourse, to Encourage Reforma-
tion, and keep the World Sober ; and in-
stead of this, he Preach'd an Enflaming
Sermon, made up from one end to the o-
ther of a Certain harsh, unpleasant, and
very unsuitable Stile, call'd *Plain English* ;
and they thought it their Duty, in Order
to prevent trouble, to let the World know
they disown'd the Man, disapproved the Me-
thod, and dislik'd the whole Sermon ; and
therefore would have had the Club pass'd a
Censure upon it.

The Society having Considered the Mat-
ter, and particularly the Title, came to
this Resolution : That since the Society for
Reformation had desired it, the Clerk should

Note it down, that they could not bear
Plain English.

One Esqr. a Justice of the Peace,
not far from a Wind Mill in *Hartfordshire*,
came to the Society and told them, he had
receiv'd a very Gross Abuse from the Rab-
ble of a Neighbouring Town, and since in
Contempt of his Office as well as Person,
they had most Intolerably Mob'd and Af-
fronted him, he expected the Society wou'd
do him Justice.

The Club promis'd his Worship all ima-
ginable Assistance according to their Duty,
and having the Particulars in Writing,
sent for the Parties accus'd ; but when the
Story came to be put into plain English,
it appear'd, that his Worship having ac-
cording to his constant Custom been out
late in some good honest Company, and
being very drunk, was pleas'd to fall down
as he came along in the Cart-way, and
there go to sleep ; and some of the good
People who were very unwilling their Ma-
gistrate should have a Cart-wheel run o-
ver him, drag'd him out of the Way under
the Market-House, where some of his So-
ciable Company finding him, they brought
him

him to himself; and taking care to summons all the Mob about them, fall to drinking again, till he could not sit upright; and then some kinder to him than he deserv'd, held him up and pour'd the Wine down his Throat, till they left him dead drunk, with his Head against the Whipping-post.

This sad Story being told, the Society resolv'd they were incapable of making him any Satisfaction, but by humbly addressing the Government to place a better Justice in his Room, that the People might have no Occasion for any Inbits of the like Nature.

Advertisements are taken in by J. Matthews, in Pilkington-Court in Little Britain.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Books Sold by Jeffery Wale, at the Angel in St. Paul's-Church-Yard.

Bibliotheca Maxima veterum Patrum, 27 Vol. Gravii Thesaur. Antiquis. Romanorum, 12 Vol. Gronovii Thesaurus Græcarum, 12 Vol. Augustini Opera Omnia, 12 Tom. Petavii Doctrina Temporum, 3 Vol. Grotii Opera, 3 Vol. St. Pauli Geographia Sacra. Petavii Dogmata Theologia, 3 Vol. Scapula Lexicon Elz. Am. 1652. Dolai Opera Medica & Chirurgica, 2 Vol. Hippocratis Opera, 13 Tom. Athanasii Opera 3 Vol. De Chales Cursus Mathematicus, 4 Vol. SS. Consilia General. ad Reg. Edit. 18 Vol. Forbesii Opera 2 Vol. Limborchi Theologia Christiana, in Fol.

A Discourse upon the Pharisee and the Publican: Wherein Several Great and Weighty Things are handled: As the Nature of Prayer, and of Obedience to the Law, with how far it obliges Christians, and wherein it consists: Wherein is also shewed equally the deplorable Condition of the Pharisee or Hypocritical and Self-righteous Man, and of the Publican, or Sinner that lives in Sin, and in open Violation of the Divine Laws: Together with the Way and Method of God's Free-Grace in Pardoning Penitent Sinners; proving that he justifies them by imputing Christ's Righteousness to them. By John Bunyan, Author of the Pilgrim's Progress. The Third Edition. Printed for John Marshall, at the Bible in Grace-church street. 1704.

Just Publish'd.

A Letter from a Country Justice to an Alderman of the City of London, concerning the Bishop of Salisbury's Speech in the House of Lords upon the Bill against Occasional Conformity. price 6 d.

Lately Publish'd,

More short ways with the Dissenters, price 6d.

The Antidote; or, The Remedy of the Diseases of the Sick, and of the present Practice. The Natural Powers are asserted to Conquer the greatest part of Distempers assisted with few cheap, tho' best Medicines: The Practising Apothecaries oppress, hazard or destroy the Sick, by paying themselves the greatest Fees, by the great Numbers of costly Doses of their Physick. The College can only prevent this Infatuation and Danger of the Publick; Demonstrating the just Proportions, and the usual Rates of the Shop-Remedies, which may be sold to all Customers, who know by their own Experience the Quantities they want. By R. PIER, M. D. Fellow and Censor of the College of Physicians, and Fellow of the Royal Society, and Physician of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Printed for John NUTT, near Stationers-Hall. 1704.

In a few Days will be publish'd,

Cassandra: (but I hope not) Telling what will come of it. Part 1. In Answer to the Occasional Letter: Numb. 1. Wherein the New Associations, &c. are considered.

Lives English and Foreign: Containing the History of the most Illustrious Persons of our own and other Nations from the Year 1550, to the Year 1690. By several hands; who have been assisted in the Work with many private Memoirs. In two Volumes in 8vo. The English Lives are, William Lord Burleigh, Sir Walter Raleigh, George Duke of Buckingham, Marquess of Montrose, Oliver Cromwell, Duke of Hamilton, General Blake, Duke of Albemarle, Earl of Shaftsbury, Duke of Monmouth. Printed for B. Took, at the Middle-Temple-Gate in Fleet-street, and W. Davis, at the Black-Bull in Cornhill; and sold by J. NUTT near Stationers-Hall. 1704.

Lately Publish'd,

Some Critical and Political Remarks on a late Virulent Lampoon, call'd, Fashion Display'd. Sold by the Booksellers. Price 6d.

††† A Doctor in Physick Cures all the Degrees and Indispositions in Venereal Persons, by a most easie, safe, and expeditious Method; and of whom any Person may have Advice, and a perfect Cure, let his or her Disease be of the longest Date: He likewise gives his Advice in all Diseases, and prescribes a Cure. Dr. HARBOROUGH, (a Graduate Physician) in Great Knights-Riders-street, near Doctors Commons.